

**Language Institutions May Use to Notify Students and Parents of the
Amendments to the LIFE Scholarship Program
2005-06**

Current LIFE Scholarship regulation stipulates that in order to renew, earn or regain eligibility, a student must earn at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale by the end of the academic year consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution for graduation purposes. The academic year consists of fall, spring and summer terms.

However, H.3906 amends the law for the LIFE Scholarship Program by requiring that the minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA must be inclusive of the student's GPA earned at all eligible public or independent institutions attended by the student. This means that a student (new or continuing) can take courses at a regionally accredited public or independent institution located in-state or out-of-state or an institution from which transfer credit is accepted during any term (fall, spring, and/or summer) and use those grades for calculating a LIFE GPA at the end of each academic year. Students must be informed that they will have two grade point averages, one calculated for LIFE Scholarship eligibility and one calculated by the institution (s) attended.

For this year, there is a budget Proviso 5A.25 that is in effect allowing for a one-year implementation of the change in the LIFE GPA calculation. The Proviso allows students to use either the old GPA or the new LIFE GPA, whichever is more advantageous to them for 2005-06.

Institutions are responsible for informing all students that the calculation of the LIFE GPA in 2006-07 will include grades earned at all institutions attended (previous and current). In order to be consistent, the SC Commission on Higher Education will provide the following language to the eligible SC institutions to share with their students immediately:

For any student who would like to have his or her GPA calculated according to H.3906 for the 2005-06 academic year, the student must contact the financial aid office and make an official written request for this year only. It will be the student's responsibility to submit transcripts from all institutions attended to determine eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship. Institutions will verify this information. LIFE Scholarship eligibility for 2006-07 will be automatically calculated according to H. 3906 for all students. (A student will not be required to self-identify or submit a request.)

A student must earn a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA based upon grades earned at all institutions, including grades earned at the home institution, at other institutions and while dually enrolled during high school. Courses classified as remedial/developmental, non-degree credit courses for an associate degree or higher or continuing education courses will not be utilized to calculate a student's GPA.

A student must earn an average of thirty credit hours each academic year consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution.